

The Dead Horse

August 2011



DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Mystery of the Missing Chickens: Solved



There's been a lot of "squawking" lately concerning our missing chickens at the Ranger residence area. Assistant Park Manager Justin Swiger recently "cracked" the mystery by placing a trail camera near the coup. The culprit? The stealthy "Lynx Rufus", more commonly known as the bobcat.

Bobcats are about 2 feet tall and weigh up to 20 pounds. Their fur is spotted when they are babies, but the spots fade when they grow up. Bobcats have very short tails. Like house cats, they are able to retract their sharp claws inside their toes. They are nocturnal. Their diet consists of rabbits, rats, squirrels, ground birds, turkeys and sometimes (as with our case) chickens. They put their hind feet in the same spots where their front feet stepped. This enables them to hunt quietly. Bobcats climb well. They can also swim, but they prefer not to do it.

submitted by Ranger Eric Buzonas

Look Who Flew The Coop!!

You may have wondered why there are less uniformed rangers at DHRSP these days. That's because Ranger Eric and Ranger Randy have been temporarily re-assigned to other State Parks. Eric is at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park two days per week and Randy will be helping out at Slide Rock through September.



We're almost ready for the move to DHRSP!!!

The final message from the park manager is that our home is in and almost ready for occupancy. It took them almost a year to make up their mind on what we would be living in. We all fought the good fight of trying to save the old ranch house and have it remodeled, but we were out numbered and in the end we have a new manufactured home. Only when it was turned over to the contractor after the bid process was awarded that the home was completed in less than a couple of months. It will be a welcome surprise once the punch list is complete and we're moved in. The big date will be August 5th. With any luck, we will finally be back at Dead Horse as a family and the kids in school the following week.

submitted by Manager George Christianson

Arizonans Urged To Vote For Dead Horse Ranch State Park To Win \$100,000 In National Coca-Cola Live Positively Contest

(Phoenix, AZ – July 15, 2011) Arizonans have an opportunity to help their State Parks win \$100,000 by participating online with the "Live Positively, America's Favorite Park Program" being coordinated by Coca-Cola. The "America is Your Park" program encourages everyone to vote their favorite Arizona State Park by going to www.livepositively.com. The real points will add up though, if you post on your Facebook page with stories and pictures while you are at **Dead Horse Ranch State Park**. That's only a quick trip to Cottonwood and each post is then worth 5 points!

Jay Ream, Assistant Director for Arizona's State Parks said, "We would like the public to follow our lead and consolidate their votes so Arizona State Parks can win. We polled our park rangers to get a consensus on one park so we have a better chance to win this amazing prize for the whole system," said Ream. "We believe Arizonans have the greatest passion for all their State Parks and the outdoors so they will join us in voting for Dead Horse Ranch State Park." The Coca-Cola Live Positively initiative will award a \$100,000 recreation grant to the park with the most votes, a \$50,000 grant to the second-place park and a \$25,000 grant to the third-place park. These grants will help buy new equipment, restore activity areas, build trails or simply make the park an overall better place for you and your family.

State Park rangers decided that Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Central Arizona, is a great choice as the park is a base park for traveling around to five State and three National parks in the Verde Valley. You can camp at the park and visit Jerome, Red Rock, Slide Rock and Fort Verde State Parks and there are three National Parks in the Sedona Verde Valley as well.

Dead Horse Ranch has lagoons for fishing, is bounded by the Verde River for canoeing, swimming and is part of one of Arizona's Important Birding areas so it is a haven for endangered and rare birds. The park offers camping cabins, tent and large RV sites with reservations online so families can always plan well in advance to go camping. While we want you to vote as many times as possible for Dead Horse Ranch State Park, it is more important that you also visit your favorite park. Votes will be tallied on September 6, 2011.

So hurry! Go to www.livepositively.com/ and vote for Dead Horse Ranch State Park. The National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) established the America's State Parks alliance (www.americasstateparks.com) to mobilize and educate the public and policy makers on the positive impact state parks have on public health and local economies. The Alliance is launching many national fund-raising initiatives to support America's parks. Americans demonstrated a strong demand for budget-friendly outdoor recreation and cultural tourism, with more than 725 million visits to state parks in 2009.

The Arizona State Parks department operates 27 State Parks and historic sites in Arizona and hosts 2.3 million visitors. These visitors then generate \$266 million in spending that supports the economies and jobs in rural communities in Arizona. For more information about Arizona's State Parks visit AZStateParks.com, connect to our FaceBook & Twitter sites at AZStateParks or call (602) 542-4174.

submitted by Ranger Eric Buzonas

I Didn't Know You Were There, Until You Were Gone...



Sad to say, due to a recent storm, we lost a true friend. The large mimosa tree on the east side of our Contact Station. This tree has been here longer than any of our current staff, and has provided both employees and visitors of DHRSP with a refuge from the summer sun.



Just the other day, I went to log on to our office computer and couldn't see the screen due the sun's impeding glare. "Wow", I said to myself. "The sun seems to be much brighter than usual". I looked out through the office window at the now vacant lot, and soon realized why the glare was on my screen. A wave of sadness touched my heart. A message was revealed to me, from the natural world... "Thank you", I whispered. "Thank you for all that you have quietly provided. I didn't know you were there, until you were gone."

Oh, by the way, this was just *one tree*... *What if our parks were gone?*

What then?

written by Ranger Eric Buzonas

Advice from a Tree

By Ilan Shamir

Dear Friend,

Stand Tall and Proud

Sink your roots deeply into the Earth

Reflect the light of a greater source

Think long term

Go out on a limb

Remember your place among all living beings

Embrace with joy the changing seasons

For each yields its own abundance

The Energy and Birth of Spring

The Growth and Contentment of Summer

The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall

The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter

Feel the wind and the sun

And delight in their presence

Look up at the moon that shines down upon you

And the mystery of the stars at night.

Seek nourishment from the good things in life

Simple pleasures

Earth, fresh air, light

Be content with your natural beauty

Drink plenty of water

Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes

Be flexible

Remember your roots

Enjoy the view!

Poem & Pictures submitted by Ranger Margie Sanchez

Those in need of Direction!!!

I would like to share with all those who have come before and were lost when entering the park we now have a new means for them to find their way through our park. We have long awaited our large scale kiosk map for here at the contact station. It is a welcome sight since we have worked on it for years. Les, Max, and I started that project years ago. We were always waiting for Phoenix to update the changes to the map or for changes within the park to be completed since they are expensive to have made. I finally decided that there will always be changes to the park and now was the time to have it printed. With the help of Max and Arizona Correctional Industries we now have a Kiosk Map and each campground has a map too.



submitted by Manager George Christianson

The Largest Cottonwood Tree Contest!



DHRSP Volunteers, Betty Hall & Wayne Quimby, joined forces to measure DHRSP's cottonwood tree for the local contest. The tree measured a mere 30 feet 2 inches in circumference!

Time is up! The votes have been tallied! In celebration of Arizona's Centennial, the Clemenceau Heritage Museum recently sponsored a contest to find the *largest cottonwood tree*! DHRSP Volunteer Betty Hall caught wind of the contest and entered our enormous giant located directly south of the Contact Station. "This tree has been here for years," remarked Betty. "I thought it deserved a little recognition." Based upon contest rules, the circumference of the tree had to be measured 4 feet above the ground. It measured in at 30 feet, 2 inches! Betty's entry came in second and was only beaten by 5 inches! The winner is a 30 foot 7 inch tree (located off Comanche Drive in Verde Village). DHRSP visitor, Pam Welch, submitted the third place entry and her tree measured in at 28 feet 5 inches. It is located south of the Verde River Greenway office.



Picture submitted by Betty Hall

article and photo submitted by Ranger Eric

Soon to be Eagle Scout!!!

Logan Reay, soon to be Eagle Scout, took on the challenge of updating our ADA sites here at the park for his Eagle project. He had the first task of researching the proper guidelines to bring them all into compliance. He inventoried the sites and their needs and then went for the daunting task of soliciting donations for the materials. At first he was just looking at painting the parking sites and as he progressed with the project he saw the need

for updating all signage. It is youth like Logan and their Eagle and/or service projects that will help keep them vested in parks for life. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to serve.

submitted by Manager George Christianson



Volunteer News

No Comings or Goings this month!! Everybody's Stayin Put! Yeeee Haa! It's just too dang hot to move these dayz..

July Dates to Remember

7/30 - July Pot-Luck Picnic, Raven Loop, 4:30-8 pm, all Volunteers & Rangers & families, PRIZES!

August Dates to Remember

Old Town Farmer's Market: Every Thursday now through 9/29th, 5pm till dark, Old Town Park
8 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

13 - Free Concert at Clarkdale Park: Chris Stevens Classic Rock 7-9pm

22 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

27 - Free Concert at Clarkdale Park: Burnett Family Bluegrass 7-9 pm

Hi Carolyn- here's a note I sent to Blake Kinkade concerning his recent Eagle Scout accomplishment.

Dear Blake, On behalf of Dead Horse Ranch State Park, I wanted to thank you for a job well done. Your Eagle Scout project was well received, and you have made a lasting improvement to Dead Horse Ranch State Park. It is nice to know that there are still young people with drive, integrity, and resolve within our community and country. We wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors. Sincerely- Eric Buzonas, PRIII

The Beat Goes On, John ... The Beat Goes On ...

John Ward's life has been a roller coaster ride this past month, as he was recently informed of an unexpected heart condition. "I'd like to "bypass" this whole operation if I could," remarked John. "Unfortunately after a second opinion with my brother's cardiologist, it was recommended that I follow through with the procedure." Quadruple bypass surgery is what the Dr.'s ordered. As most of you know, John is an avid hiker and bike rider. The surgeon was impressed with John's overall physical condition, and because of this, he was given the green light to return to work and continue hiking and biking as long as he doesn't exert himself or do any heavy lifting. His surgery is scheduled for mid August. Please keep John & Wanda Ward in your thoughts and prayers. One family, one beat, one rhythm, one pulse ... the beat goes on ... the beat goes on ...

written by Ranger Eric

Hi All! Hope you are having a good summer and that the park is busy. I've been a Ranger in Maine since July 3rd and am enjoying the work a lot. Our campground is very full now, after a slow start (probably due to a wet spring). The time is flying by and it won't be long until we're headed back to DHRSP for the winter. We hope that the fires there, are over now. Best regards- Jan & Bill Birtwell

(In regards to July Bar-B-Q) "Sounds great, but we won't be close to come. We were great grandparents July 11 by our granddaughter and her husband. Stella was born c-section at 8lbs 1oz and 20 1/2 inches long. Of course, she is a doll! At least according to Don and Sue. Please pass this NEWS onto our friends at Dead Horse Ranch. Don & Sue Neal

Wish I could attend the BBQ. I miss all my DHR friends. I just returned from a week on the upper Agulapak River. Brian (Grandson) and I flew in by float plane and came back a week later by boat. We were volunteering for Wood-Tikchik State Park. We worked on a remote cabin and had some world class fishing in the Agulapak as well as Lake Beverley and Lake Nurka. Still having fun in Alaska! Manager-Emeritus Les Bovee

On The Road to Recovery!

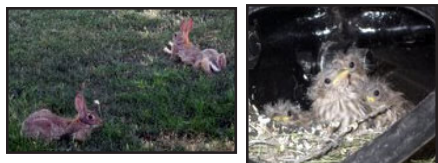
Sleep, riches, and health, to be truly enjoyed- must be interrupted at times.

Johann Paul Friedrich Richter,

"Flower, Fruit, and Thorn"

DHRSP Volunteers Dave & Carolyn Abbott have had their share of uncertainties this summer. After some unexpected medical issues, Dave is now on his Road to Recovery. Both the staff and volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park are sending heartfelt thoughts and well-wishes to them. May you both be up and running, on the road, again...

submitted by Ranger Eric



Found some bunnies cooling off on our grass and birds built their nest in the pin box of our RV. Dave & Carolyn Abbott, Quail Loop

August Milestones

- 1-Bernie & Teresa Munson (1972)
- 2-Ann Nason
- 4-Sandra Nelson
- 6-Gale Schmidt
- 7-Chuck & Brenda Mullins
- 9-JoAnn Munsell
- 12-John & Pat (1986)
- 12-Betty Lawrick
- 14-Charles Castle
- 15-Sharon Munson
- 17-Carol Johnson
- 17-Emerson & Karen Trushel (1963)
- 18-Vern & Janet Sisson (1979)
- 19-Pat Pauly
- 22-Dave Penny
- 24-Robert & Sandy Nelson (1987)
- 25-Randy Victory
- 25-Betty Wolters
- 27-John Hoopes

Hi Carolyn, thanks again for the news letter. Nice to see the ac / heater in the cabins, it is truly a comfort addition and should increase their popularity in the heat of the summer and cold of the winter. We are at Lamoine State Park where Anita is a volunteer and Bob has been hired by the state of Maine as a park ranger. Lamoine was a navy coaling station in the early 1900s prior to the navy converting to oil. Guess this means we will be spending a few summers in the northeast. Anita & Bob Bligh

Thanks for the newsletter Carolyn, you do a great job on it. We are enjoying the White Mountains for the summer. Lots of good rain and cool temperatures. I always look forward to returning to Cottonwood and Dead Horse Ranch in November. Bud Jenkins